

Germany's Beraul of Rumania and Poles To Kill Local Russians and Poles Exposed

Documents Released by American Government Show How Minister Barely Escaped Assassination After Being Arrested by the Bolsheviks and Released Through Efforts of Ambassador Francis

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The betrayal of Rumania and elaborate advance plans of Germany and her Russian Bolshevik ally for suppressing and murdering local Rumanians, Russians and Poles are exposed in detail by to-day's chapters of the astounding secret Russian documents which the American government is giving to the public.

Explanatory notes of Edgar Sisson, who obtained the documents, add many details lacking in the papers themselves, including a story of how the Rumanian Minister barely escaped assassination after being arrested by the Bolsheviks and released through the efforts of Ambassador Francis and other diplomats.

The machinations of Trotsky, inspired by the German General Hoffman, for the disruption of Rumania are disclosed in the following:

Document No. 37

(Counter Espionage of the Stavka)
To the Commission on Combating the Counter Revolution: Commander in Chief Krikenko has requested the counter espionage of the staff to inform you that it is necessary to order the following persons to leave the Rumanian front immediately: From Petrograd, Commissar Kuhl, Social-Democrat, Sidorov, Gushchinsk, and from the front, the chief of the Red Guard, Durasov. These persons should be supplied with literature and financial resources for agitation. To them it is necessary to task of taking all measures for the deposing of the Rumanian King and the removal of counter-revolutionary Rumanian officers. Director of Counter Espionage, Feinberg, Secretary, N. Drachev.

Note.—This marks the beginning of large scale work to disorganize the Rumanian army. That in its early winter phases of advance, undoubtedly to Germany is evidenced by vengeful steps taken later by General Hoffman and Trotsky from Brest-Litovsk, who in the middle of January, 1918, ordered the arrest in Petrograd of the Rumanian Minister Diamandi. The contents of this letter, written by Joffe, were telegraphed to Washington in February and photographic copy of letter forwarded.

At about the same time the Rumanian public gold reserves in custody within the Rumanian army were seized by the Russian government. Diamandi was released from arrest at the demand of the united diplomatic mission in Petrograd, but his humiliation continued, and on January 28 he was ordered from Petrograd, being given less than ten minutes to prepare for the departure of a party that contained many women and children. Ambassador Francis sought in vain of Zalkind, who was acting as Foreign Minister in the absence of Trotsky, again at Brest-Litovsk for an extension of the time of departure. The Rumanian party was thrown pell-mell on a train at midnight. It was delayed in Finland, where it was held another, not immediately apparent, but in three weeks the minister, leaving behind a large part of his people, was allowed to proceed to Torneo. By good luck he reached there the day after the Red Guard lost Torneo to the White Guard. That day saved his life, for on the person of Svetitsky, a Russian commissar who joined him in mid-February and accompanied him to Torneo, was found an order to Timofeyev, the Commissar at Torneo, to shoot him. Svetitsky was shot instead. When I passed through Torneo the control officer talked frankly about the details, expressing the opinion that the shooting might have been a mistake, as it was well known that Svetitsky was aware of the contents of the letter. Svetitsky, however, was an important person in Petrograd, close to Trotsky. One of the Rumanian party brought letters from Trotsky to General Gurnesko, the first secretary of the Rumanian delegation, out of Finland through the lines with us. He had been in Red Finland seven weeks. Behind him at Brest-Litovsk he had families of Rumanians who had departed from Petrograd with the minister. We would have liked to have brought them through the lines of the two armies, but our venture was too desperate to permit unauthorized additions to the party.

The marginalization on this letter is "Executive" initially "C.I.", the sign manual of Chicherin, the returned exile from England, at that time Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, now Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Have photograph of letter.

Letter from Joffe at Brest-Litovsk.

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Litovsk carrying General Hoffman's order through Trotsky to incite agitation against the Rumanian army, and to arrest Diamandi, the Rumanian Minister.

CONFIDENTIAL

(No. 771, Affidavit of Peace Delegation, report 4 1, Urgent (Initials).)

Brest-Litovsk.

Dec. 31, 1917. No. 365 N. K.

Comr. Shitkevich: Take copies and send to the Comiss. for Foreign Affairs, personally to Comr. Zalkind. To the Council of National Commissaries: Comr. L. D. Trotsky has charged me to bring to the knowledge of the Council of National Commissaries the immediate incitement of the Rumanian diplomatic representatives in Petersburg.

General Hoffman, referring to the calculations which had been taken place in Brest-Litovsk between the members of the German and Austro-Hungarian delegations on December 29, presented to the Russian delegation in the name of the German and Austrian chief command a deciphered radio telegram was exhibited in this connection a confidential demand concerning the immediate incitement of the Rumanian army to recognize the necessity of an armistice and adopting the terms of a democratic peace pointed out by the Russian delegates. The letter, addressed to the staff and the whole commanding force of the Rumanian army, with regard to which the chief command had made a dangerous aggression, the most exact agency information, spoils the excellent impression produced in Germany and on all the delegates. The Russian peace propositions, which have made it possible to again stimulate the popular feeling against England, France and America and can bring about an undecidable and dangerous aggression of the peace question up to the German army going over to the attack on our front and an open annexation of the territories occupied in Russia.

The general expressed his opinion that against peace might be the Cossacks, some Ukrainian regiments and the Caucasian army, in which case they will also doubtless join the Rumanian armies, which, according to the information in possession of the German staff, enters into the calculations of the German and Austrian chief command. The general expressed his opinion that against peace might be the Cossacks, some Ukrainian regiments and the Caucasian army, in which case they will also doubtless join the Rumanian armies, which, according to the information in possession of the German staff, enters into the calculations of the German and Austrian chief command. The general expressed his opinion that against peace might be the Cossacks, some Ukrainian regiments and the Caucasian army, in which case they will also doubtless join the Rumanian armies, which, according to the information in possession of the German staff, enters into the calculations of the German and Austrian chief command.

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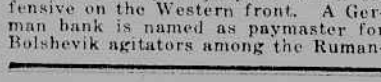
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ian soldiers. Is Wolf Vonigelt, the field director, the Wolf von Igel of American notoriety? Finally, General Hoffman betrays the General staff are satisfied with Trotsky's watch over the American and English diplomats. Joffe, who signs the letter, is a member of the Russian Peace commission. Since this letter was written Zalkind has gone to Switzerland on a special mission.

July 6, 1918.—E. S.

Note.—He did not reach there, being unable to pass through England, and in April was in Christiania.

Further disclosures of espionage operations and of assassination plots for the ruthless extermination of Russian patriots follow:

Document No. 38

(Commission for Combating the Counter Revolution and Pogroms, December 14, 1917, Petrograd.)

Major von Boelke. Esteemed Comrade: I bring to your notice that our Finnish comrades, Iaksha, Pukko and Enret, have advised the commissar for combating the counter-revolution of the following facts:

1. To take the most decisive measures, up to shooting en masse, against the Polish troops which have submitted to the counter-revolutionary and imperialistic propaganda.
2. To arrest General Dobrov-Menitsky.
3. To arrange a surveillance of the commanding personnel.
4. Send agitators to the Polish legions to consult regarding the Polish revolutionary organizations known to the committee.
5. On learning of the counter-revolutionary activity of Polish officers to immediately arrest them and send them to the Stavka to the disposal of the Counter Revolution.
6. To arrest the emissaries of General Alexiev, Staff Captain Shuravsky and Captain Rushtsky.
7. To request the Commission for Combating the Counter Revolution with agreement with the German Intelligence Bureau at Petrograd to arrange a surveillance and observation of the following institutions and persons:

- (a) The high Polish committee.
- (b) The Society of Friends of the Polish Soldier.
- (c) The Union of Polish Invalids.
- (d) Members of the Polish Kolo of the former state Doana and council.
- (e) The chairman, Ledmitsky, and the members of the committee for the liquidation of affairs of the Polish kingdom.
- (f) Bohoslav Jalovsky.
- (g) Stanislaw Shurtzky.
- (h) Roman Catholic Polish clergy.
- (i) The Polish treasurer, through which, according to agency reports, the government receives money from Russia, with the assistance of the New York National City Bank, to supply with monetary resources the counter-revolutionary camp.

These reports must be established exactly. Our agents are helpless. Please excuse that I write on the official letter-heads, but I hasten to do this, sitting here at the commission at an extraordinary meeting. Ready to service: E. Zalkind.

Note.—The written comment at the top of the letter is "Commissar for Foreign Affairs. I request exact instructions, Schacht." Is von Boelke's question signed with his cipher name. (See Document 3.) The letter may imply that von Boelke had, in the opinion of his good friend Zalkind, a means of influencing the observation at the American Embassy.

Have photograph of letter.

Document No. 39

(Counter Espionage of the Stavka, No. 268, January 25, 1918.)

VERY SECRET

To the Commission on Combating the Counter Revolution: On the 23d of January at the Stavka there took place a conference at which were participated Major von Boelke, assigned from Petrograd. It was decided upon the incidence of the German consultants, to send to the front the following persons, furnishing them all powers for dealing with the individual counter-revolutionary.

To the Don: Zhikorev, Rudnev, Krozulst and Ernest Delgau.

To the Caucasus front: Vassili Dombadze, Prince Machabelli, Sevastianov, and Ter-Baburian.

To the 1st Polish Corps of General Dobrov-Menitsky are assigned Dembitsky, Stetkiss, Zimnitsis, and Gishnikov.

Be so good as to take all measures for the quick assignment and the adequate furnishing of the assigned persons with money, reserve passports and other documents. Senior officer, Peter Mironov.

Note.—This is an assassination order against individuals. It was not successful against the Polish general, Dombadze and Prince Machabelli were German spies implicated in the Sukhomlinoff affair and sentenced to death. Zimnitsis, a Colonel Dembitsky was a Bolshevik Polish officer. Baburin was an assistant chief of staff under Krikenko. The letter is indorsed by General Zalkind, leave with report for Comrade Zimnitsky, signature illegible.

Have photograph of letter.

Document No. 40

(Counter Espionage of the Stavka, No. 51-572, January 19, 1918.)

To the Commission for Combating the Counter Revolution: There have been received two notes addressed to the senior commander from the staffs of the Austrian and German high commands. These notes inform the Stavka that the organizer of the counter-revolutionary army in the Don region, General Alexiev, is in written communication with the officer personnel of the Polish legions at the front. This information has been received by the Austrian agents from the Polish Bolshevik Comrade Zhuk.

On the other side, the representative of the German government, Comr. Lerchenfeldt, reports of the rapidly growing movement in Poland in favor of the bourgeoisie estate owners' imperialistic plan to defend with arms the greatest possible independence of Poland, with the broadening of its frontiers at the expense of Lithuania, White Russia and Galicia.

The policy movement is actively supported by the popular democratic party in Warsaw, as well as Petrograd, by military organizations guided by the counter-revolutionary Polish clergy.

The situation which has arisen was discussed on the 16th of January at

the Stavka in the presence of Major von Boelke, sent the Petrograd branch of the German Intelligence Bureau, and it was there decided:

1. To take the most decisive measures, up to shooting en masse, against the Polish troops which have submitted to the counter-revolutionary and imperialistic propaganda.
2. To arrest General Dobrov-Menitsky.
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It is necessary to verify the private reports of several Lithuanian revolutionary funds, which are the capitals of private persons who hid their money from requisition for the benefit of the state.

The establishment of any connection with the counter-revolutionary guilty Polish institutions are to be liquidated, their leaders and also persons connected with the counter-revolutionary activity are to be arrested and sent to the disposal of the Stavka. For Chief of the Counter Espionage, Commissar Kalmanovitch.

Note.—A German, through Comr. Lerchenfeldt, was intriguing on both sides. Chiefly, however, the significance of the letter is in the threat of the German government to crush the threat of armed opposition from the Polish legions of the Russian army. The troops were fired upon, as indicated. The preceding paragraph shows this in its actual sequence. The next two further elucidate the situation for the benefit of the Poles of the outside world.

Have photograph of letter.

Document No. 41

(Counter Espionage of the Stavka, No. 161, January 28, 1918.)

To the Commission for Combating the Counter Revolution: The special commission on the conflict with the Polish counter-revolutionary troops has been actively. All the conditions of the conflict are indicated at the counter espionage at the Stavka, where is being collected all information on the counter-revolutionary activity of the Polish and German troops. At the commission have arrived members of the Commission for Combating the Counter Revolution: Mikonoshin, I. Zimnitsis, Zimnitsis, and Gishnikov. To a conference were called agents announcing their wish to be sent for conflict with the Polish counter-revolutionary troops. Dembitsky, Bohoslav, Yakhimovich, Strivsky, Yachenovsky and Adamovich. All those agents are under obligation to carry the affair to the point of open insubordination of the soldiers against the officers and the arrest of the latter.

For emergency the commander in chief of the counter-revolutionary army and Ilya Razynov for the destruction of the counter-revolutionary ring-leaders among the Polish troops, and the commission recognized the possibility of changing the Polish troops outside the law when that measure should present itself as imperative.

From Petrograd, observers announced that the Polish organizations are displaying great reserve and caution in mutual relations. There has been established, however, an unbroken contact between the high military council located in Petrograd and the Polish officers and soldiers of the bourgeoisie estate-owning class with the counter-revolutionary Polish troops. On this matter, in the Commission on Military Affairs, there took place on January 22 a conference of Comr. Zalkind, Comr. Lerchenfeldt, Comr. Koz, Dybenko, and Kovalsky. The Commissar on Naval Affairs announced that the sailors Trushin, Markin, Penkatis and Schulz demand the dismissal of the Polish troops, and threaten, in case it is refused, assaults on the Polish legions in Petrograd. The commander in chief suggests that it might be possible to direct the rage of the sailors mentioned, and of their group, to the front against the counter-revolutionary Polish troops.

At the same time, among the Polish troops is being carried on in very active fashion and there is great hope for the disorganization of the Polish legions. Chief of Counter Espionage Feinberg.

Note.—Have photograph of letter.

Document No. 42

(Counter Espionage of the Stavka, January 28, 1918.)

To the Commission for Combating the Counter Revolution: At the request of the commander in chief, in answer to my inquiry, I inform you, supplementary to the letter of the funds sent with Major B. Yermolov, have been received here. Among the troops acting on the front against the counter-revolutionary Polish troops, the other of the Polish legions have been prepared several battalions for conflict with the Poles and Ukrainians. We will pay 12 rubles a day, with an increased food ration. From the hired sections sent against the legions have been prepared two companies, one from the best shots for the shooting of officers of the Polish legions, and the other of the legions have been prepared against the Poles in Vitebsk, Minsk, and Mogilev governments, in the places where the Polish troops are situated. Various local peasants have also agreed to attack the regiments and exterminate them.—Commissar G. Mosholov.

Note.—These two documents show that the policy against these patriotic soldiers was one of merciless extermination, financed by German money, handed out by a German officer, Bayermeister is named in Document No. 5.

Have photograph of letter.

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Says Holland Aims To Stop Smuggling

Gerald Van Casteel Reports Bitterness Over Seizure of Ships Subsidizing

The government of Holland is making every effort possible to prevent the smuggling of contraband goods into Germany, and Germany is taking every chance possible to obtain contraband, according to Gerald Van Casteel, former Assistant District Attorney, who has just returned to New York from Holland.

"The people of Holland are for themselves first," said Mr. Van Casteel, who has offices at 115 Broadway. "Secondly, they are anti-German, and, thirdly, they are pro-Ally."

"But they are making a serious and conscientious effort to stop smuggling, and so give proof of their neutrality, and give evidence of their neutrality."

Feeling among the Dutch Mr. Van Casteel said, was harsh toward America when the Holland ships were taken over.

"But after a short time," he said, "they began to realize there was nothing else the United States could have done and also that they had made a very good bargain, and they changed their minds with regard to us."

U. S. Board Orders Strikers Reinstated

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Sept. 18.—The confusion in the munition and ordnance factories here resulting from the recent strike of 5,000 machinists and toolmakers began to straighten out today. Complaints from the men that despite President Wilson's communication to local manufacturers numbers of ex-strikers were not being reinstated to their former jobs brought a prompt telegram from the secretary of the War Labor Board at Washington to Alpheus Winter, head of the board's corps of examiners in Bridgeport.

"Make ruling at once," said this message, "and advise both parties that strikers have not lost any of their privileges and should be reinstated as they were before they quit work. Advise both parties that the board will insist upon the strikers' reinstatement and toolmakers being reinstated and not re-laid."

U. S. and Denmark Agree on Treaty

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Danish-American commercial and shipping agreements, which have been the subject of negotiations between the War Trade Board and the special Danish Mission in Washington, were completed to-night and signed. Similar agreements have been made with all European neutrals except Holland.

The agreements, which follow closely those made with Norway and Sweden, assure to Denmark a supply of foodstuffs, machinery, textiles, non-edible animal and vegetable products, chemicals, drugs and other commodities required for its needs in an aggregate quantity of well over 352,000 tons annually.

To Mediate in China

U. S. and Britain Seek to Unite Warring Factions

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The United States and Great Britain have joined in an attempt to mediate between north and south China, as a result of reports from British and American agents on the second day of the strong hopes for the restoration of peace between the opposing factions.

This sectional controversy has kept China in a turbulent state for the past two years.

Gen. Soukhomlinoff Shot

LONDON, Sept. 18.—General Soukhomlinoff, Minister of War in the Russian Imperial Cabinet from 1909 to 1915, was court-martialed September 8 and shot on the same day, according to a Petrograd dispatch printed in the newspapers of Vienna and transmitted here by the Amsterdam correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company.

General Soukhomlinoff, on September 26, 1917, was sentenced by a Petrograd court to hard labor for life after his conviction on the charges of high treason, abuse of confidence and fraud. Made Soukhomlinoff, the general's wife, was acquitted.

Swiss Exports Through Germany Agreed Upon

BERNE, Sept. 18.—An agreement has been reached between the German and Swiss delegates concerning the transit of Swiss exports and imports through Germany, after the official statement. Henceforth, after the approval of both governments, Swiss cottons, silks and watches will be allowed to pass through Germany to Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and exports from those countries, to Switzerland.

Some Americans Among 500 Refugees at Haparanda

(By The Associated Press)
STOCKHOLM, Sept. 18.—Another party of refugees from Russia, numbering 500 persons, and including sixty American and British civilians, arrived yesterday at Haparanda. In the party were 400 Italian soldiers and officers.

Hun Must Weaken Army in West or Give Up Siberia

Allies Plan to Combine Lines at Samara, East of the Volga

Means 800-Mile Line

Experts Say Teutons Will Not Balk Entente Unless Reinforcements Arrive

By Carter Field

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Germany must weaken her man-power on the Western front to a degree which would court disaster or witness the juncture of the Allied forces now moving south from the Murman coast with the Czech-Slovaks on the Volga River, in the opinion of army officers here.

It was disclosed to-day for the first time that it is the plan of the Entente for the joint expedition, including American troops and marines, with British and French troops, which originally landed at Kola, on the Murman coast, to move southerly until it effects a juncture with the Czechs holding the Transsiberian Railroad, near the town of Samara, just east of the Volga River, and about 550 miles east of Moscow.

The Czech-Slovaks now hold the Transsiberian Railroad from Samara to the point where the road is in the hands of the Japanese, who have moved inland from the region around Vladivostok, so that the road is in Entente hands from European Russia to its Pacific terminal.

Line 800 Miles Long

As the crow flies, the distance from Archangel, the nearest point on the White Sea, to Samara is nearly 800 miles, so that the project of having the Murman expedition join the Czechs behind the Volga River is one of extraordinary difficulty. This is thoroughly appreciated by army officers studying the situation, but they point out that its difficulty is not comparable with what has been already accomplished by the Czech-Slovak army, which will be reinforced whenever needed by Japanese troops coming over the Transsiberian Railroad, but not be entirely dependent upon that railway for supplies, since it has already been demonstrated that the Russian people are eager to help the Allies, and the Czechs have been evidenced by the fact that the Czech-Slovak force has not been starved out.

Poles to Help Allies

The Entente force which will thus reopen the Eastern front for Germany will be further reinforced by the army of Poles now being organized in Siberia, so that by the time the long march has been made and the juncture effected the man-power of the Allies will be augmented to a considerable degree. There is strong confidence in addition that the Russians will rally to the Entente banners, hoping not only to throw off the German yoke designed for them by the Bolsheviks, but to end the Bolshevik power in Russia.

The opinion of army officers is that Germany could, by sending a large expeditionary force to attack the Murman coast, entice the Allies to oppose its southward march, present this juncture planned by the Entente general staff, but the huge distances of Russia and the place of the Entente by making this of extraordinary difficulty. The German interfering expedition, should one be sent, would be compelled to move not less than 400 miles northward to the point of juncture with the normal southerly line of march of the Russian expedition.

People Are With Czechs

Because of the evident temper of the Russian people and their sympathy with the Czechs, the Germans would be obliged to hold the line of communications closely. So that to put an army capable of defeating the Murman expedition into the light would require an enormous effort. It is confidently believed, would not dare to spare for such a move.

Germany's only hope, it is declared, lies in the Bolsheviks. If they can maintain a sufficient grip on the Russian situation to interfere seriously it might be possible for them to serve Germany well.

If they do not, they will be the stone of recent dispatches from Russia, that such aid to Germany could be extended by the Lenin-Trotsky group.

Once the union has been effected, the Czech-Slovak army, and a third of European Russia will be behind the lines of the Entente army, and the possibilities for its accomplishment will be almost limitless.

Manchuria R. R. Strike Impedes Military Operations in Siberia

HARBIN, Manchuria, Monday, Sept. 18.—The strike on the Chinese Eastern Railway continues to embarrass military operations in Manchuria. None of the strikers applied for work to-day, despite the ultimatum presented to them, demanding that they resume their labors this morning. The first train for a week in the direction of Changchun came into the Harbin station this afternoon, heavily guarded by Japanese, Chinese and Czech-Slovak troops.

In order to maintain military connections with Vladivostok it has been necessary to force the engineers to work at the point of the bayonet.

Czechs Advance 180 Miles Across Urals And Capture Perm

PARIS, Sept. 18. (Havas).—A dispatch from Vladivostok announces that the Czech-Slovak forces have captured Perm.

It is true it means that the Czech-Slovaks have advanced across the Ural Mountains about 180 miles from Ekaterinburg, which they captured some time ago.

Perm is the capital of the government of Perm and is situated on the Kama River. Near it is one of the largest Russian ordnance works. The population at the